IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a privileged event in a virtual machine (VM) environment having guest software and a plurality of virtual machine monitors (VMMs), wherein the privileged event is not to be handled by the guest software;

determining which one of [[a]] the plurality of ~~virtual machine monitors~~ (VMMs[[)]] is to handle the privileged event; and

transitioning control to said one of the plurality of VMMs.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of VMMs includes a main VMM and one or more parallel VMMs.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining which one of a plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event comprises:

determining a type of the privileged event; and

identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle privileged events of the determined type.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining which one of a plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event comprises:

accessing a field associated with the privileged event in a resource; and

identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle the privileged event based on a value of the field.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the field associated with the privileged event is

a field associated with a type of the privileged event.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the field associated with the privileged event is

a field associated with an input-output address range to which an input-output address of the

privileged event belongs.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the value of the field associated with the

privileged event is either predetermined or dynamically configurable.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein determining which one of a plurality of VMMs

is to handle the privileged event comprises:

        evaluating resource usage parameters of the plurality of VMMS; and

        identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle the privileged event

based on evaluation of the resource usage parameters.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the resource resides in any one of a memory, a

processor, a chipset, and an input-output device.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the privileged event represents any one of an

interrupt, an exception, an execution of a privileged instruction, and a platform event.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the privileged event occurs during an operation of guest software.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the privileged event occurs during an operation of one of the plurality of VMMs.

13.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a plurality of virtual machine monitors (VMMs); and

routing logic to detect an occurrence of a privileged event that cannot be handled by guest software, to determine which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event, and to transition control to said one of the plurality of VMMs.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the plurality of VMMs includes a main VMM and one or more parallel VMMs.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the routing logic is to determine which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event by determining a type of the privileged event, and identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle privileged events of the determined type.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the routing logic is to determine which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event by evaluating resource usage parameters of the plurality of VMMs, and identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle the privileged event based on evaluation of the resource usage parameters.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the privileged event represents any one of an

interrupt, an exception, an execution of a privileged instruction, and a platform event.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the privileged event occurs during an

operation of guest software.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 13 wherein the privileged event occurs during an

operation of one of the plurality of VMMs.

20.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

    a memory having stored therein guest software and a plurality of virtual machine

monitors (VMMs); and

    a processor, coupled to the memory, to execute the guest software, to detect an

occurrence of a privileged event that cannot be handled by the guest software, to determine

which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event, and to transition control to

said one of the plurality of VMMs.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the plurality of VMMs includes a main VMM

and one or more parallel VMMs.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the processor is to determine which one of the

plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event by determining a type of the privileged

event, and identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle privileged events of the determined type.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the processor is to determine which one of the plurality of VMMs is to handle the privileged event by evaluating resource usage parameters of the plurality of VMMs, and identifying one of the plurality of VMMs that is designated to handle the privileged event based on evaluation of the resource usage parameters.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the privileged event represents any one of an interrupt, an exception, an execution of a privileged instruction, and a platform event.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the privileged event occurs during operation of any one of guest software and one of the plurality of VMMs.

26.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage medium containing storing instructions which, when executed by a processing system, cause the processing system to perform a method, the method comprising:

detecting an occurrence of a privileged event in a virtual machine environment having guest software and a plurality of virtual machine monitors (VMMs), wherein the privileged event is not to be handled by the guest software;

determining which one of [[a]] the plurality of virtual machine monitors (VMMs[[)]] is to handle the privileged event; and

transitioning control to said one of the plurality of VMMs.

27.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the plurality of VMMs

includes a main VMM and one or more parallel VMMs.

28.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the privileged event

represents any one of an interrupt, an exception, an execution of a privileged instruction, and a

platform event.

29.   (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 26 wherein the privileged event occurs

during operation of any one of guest software and one of the plurality of VMMs.